

TEMPERATURE COMPENSATION DEVICE AND METHOD
WITH LOW HEAT-GENERATION

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

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This application claims priority to an application entitled "TEMPERATURE COMPENSATION DEVICE AND METHOD WITH LOW HEAT-GENERATION," filed in the Korean Intellectual Property Office on August 9, 2002 and assigned Serial No. 2002-47181, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a temperature compensation device and method which allows an optical communication device to have a constant temperature characteristic regardless of the change of environmental temperature, and in particular a low heat-generating temperature compensation device and method using a proportion-integration-derivation (PID) control circuit.

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2. Description of the Related Art

An arrayed waveguide grating (AWG) is an optical communication device that is principally used as a multiplexer/demultiplexer (Mux/DeMux) for multiplexing or

demultiplexing a multi-wavelength optical channel in an optical communication system in wavelength division multiplexing (WDM) mode. A problem with optical communication devices such as the AWG is that they are sensitive to environmental circumstances and may therefore cause performance of an optical communication system to deteriorate.

5 To overcome such a problem, a temperature compensation device is utilized to maintain a constant temperature characteristic in such optical communication devices regardless of change in environmental temperature. Such a temperature compensation device may be embodied principally through use of a PID control circuit.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a conventional temperature compensation
10 device that uses a conventional PID control circuit.

As illustrated in FIG. 1, the conventional temperature compensation device comprises a temperature comparison unit 10, a PID control unit 20, a high electric current drive unit 30, a temperature control unit 40 and a temperature sensor 50.

The temperature comparison unit 10 compares a current voltage value V_{cur} based
15 on the current temperature with a reference temperature V_{ref} to yield as a difference an error voltage value V_{err} . The reference voltage value V_{ref} is set directly or through a digital-to-analog converter (DAC) fed by a universal micro controller. V_{cur} is set by reading a resistance value of a temperature sensor attached to an optical communication device such as an AWG and converting the resistance value into the current voltage value V_{cur} .

20 The PID control unit 20 urges V_{cur} into conformity with the actual present temperature by outputting a PID voltage value V_{pid} to the high electric current drive unit 30. The PID control unit may incorporate a P control circuit, a PI control circuit, a PD control

circuit, a PID control circuit or the like in accordance with the temperature variation characteristic of the optical communication device.

The high electric current drive unit 30 receives and amplifies V_{pid} to derive a “high temperature” representative current I_{out} which it then supplies to the temperature control device 40. As the high electric current drive unit, a power operational amplifier (op-amp) is generally used.

The temperature control device 40 uses I_{out} to control the temperature of the optical communication device. Operationally, the polarity of I_{out} is determined in the PID control unit 20 based on the polarity of the error voltage value V_{err} . If the error voltage value exhibits a positive value, positive electric current is supplied; whereas, if the error voltage value exhibits a negative value, negative electric current is supplied. Such a temperature control device uses a heater, thermal electric cooler (TEC), or the like. The heater functions to heat the optical communication device regardless of the polarity of I_{out} , and the TEC functions to heat or cool the optical communication device in accordance with the polarity of I_{out} .

The temperature sensor 50 functions to sense a temperature and is implemented, for example, as a thermistor or a resistive thermal detector (RTD). Respective characteristics of the thermistor and the RTD differ; the resistance of the latter increases with temperature, whereas the resistance of the former decreases as temperature increases.

Conventional temperature compensation devices having the aforementioned construction have several disadvantages. The power op-amp, which is used as the high electrical drive unit, has poor thermal efficiency and thus generates too much heat. Also, it

almost invariably requires a heat sink, thereby increasing material costs and the volume of entire module.

In order to overcome these problems, a low heat-generating temperature compensation device which does not require a heat sink has been implemented by using a
5 pulse width modulation (PMD) driver and a current rectifier circuit.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating a known low heat-generating temperature compensation device.

As illustrated in FIG. 2, the conventional low heat-generating temperature compensation device has a construction which is similar to that shown in FIG. 1, but a
10 PWM driver 31 and a current rectifier circuit 32 substitute for the power op-amp. FIG. 3 illustrates the output characteristic of the high current drive unit 32 formed from the PWM driver 31 and the current rectifier circuit 32. The analog PID control unit 20 outputs a temperature compensation signal V_{pid} based on the error voltage value V_{err} (FIG. 3a). The PWM driver 31 amplifies V_{pid} to yield an amplified signal I_{pwm} (FIG. 3b). I_{pwm} is passed
15 through the current rectifier 32 and changed to a direct current (DC) signal I_{out} (FIG. 3c).

However, the conventional temperature compensation device shown in FIG. 2 utilizes a proportioner (P), an integrator (I), a derivator (D) in a PID control circuit to maintain the error voltage V_{err} at zero. The conventional device therefore requires the use of a vast number of electric components such as a high performance op-amp, a resistor (R)
20 and a capacitor (C). Such an analog PID control circuit therefore entails increased material costs and volumetric enlargement of temperature compensation modules. Furthermore, the properties of the electric components abruptly grow worse under an extreme environment

and thus the entire performance of the temperature compensation module is apt to deteriorate.

As mentioned above, the error voltage value V_{err} in the temperature compensation unit is generally obtained by calculating the difference between the voltage value at the
5 current temperature V_{cur} and the voltage value at the reference temperature V_{ref} using an instrument op-amp. In general, however, the polarity of V_{err} is dependent upon the type of temperature sensor, e.g., thermistor or RTD, used in measuring the temperature. As described above, a polarity change in V_{err} also changes the polarity of the electric current I_{out} applied to a temperature control device such as a heater or a TEC, and, consequently,
10 changes the functioning of the temperature control device which is applied to an optical communication device. A resulting disadvantage is that the printed circuit boards (PCB) that are selected to implement the temperature comparison unit vary with the type of temperature sensor employed.

15 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention has been made to solve the above-mentioned problems of the prior art, and an object of the present invention is to provide a low heat-generating temperature compensation device, which can be miniaturized in size and can be
20 manufactured at reduced cost.

One aspect of the present invention is to provide a low heat-generating temperature compensation device and method that can accept various types of temperature

sensors while using one and the same PCB regardless of the type of temperature sensor utilized.

According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a low heat-generating temperature compensation device that allows an optical communication device
5 to maintain a constant temperature characteristic regardless of change in environmental temperature, the low heat-generating temperature compensation device comprising: a temperature sensor that detects the temperature of the optical communication device when the device is in use; a temperature comparison unit that performs digital signal processing of a signal corresponding to the detected temperature and a signal corresponding to a
10 reference temperature of the optical communication device and then generates a digital error value which is the difference between the two signals; a D/A converter which converts the digital error value of the temperature comparison unit into an analog signal; a temperature control unit that controls the temperature of the optical communication device on the basis of a temperature compensation signal; and an analog PID control unit that
15 receives the analog signal and performs PID control using an analog method to generate the temperature compensation signal so as to urge the digital error value to zero.

In order to achieve the above objects, there is also provided a low heat-generating temperature compensation method, that allows an optical communication device to have a constant temperature characteristic regardless of change in environmental temperature, the
20 low heat-generating temperature compensation method comprising the steps of: detecting the temperature of the optical communication device while in use; performing digital signal processing of a signal corresponding to the detected temperature and a signal corresponding

to a reference temperature of the optical communication device and then generating a digital error value which is the difference between the two signals; converting the digital error value of the temperature comparison unit into an analog signal; performing, using an analog method, temperature compensation for the optical communication device based on a temperature compensation signal; and receiving the analog signal and performing PID control in an analog method to generate the temperature compensation signal so as to urge the digital error value to zero.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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The above and other features and advantages of the present invention will be more apparent from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which identical components are indicated by identical reference numbers and symbols throughout the several views:

15 FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a conventional temperature compensation device using a PID control circuit;

FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating a known low heat-generating temperature compensation device;

FIG. 3, a through c, is a graphical representation of signaling in the embodiment of
20 FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a block diagram illustrating the construction of a low heat-generating temperature compensation device in accordance with an embodiment of the present

invention, in which the temperature comparison unit is subjected to digital signal processing;

FIG. 5 is a block diagram illustrating the construction of a low heat-generating temperature compensation device in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, which comprises a digital temperature comparison unit and a digital PID controller;

FIG. 6 is a block diagram of another embodiment of the present invention, in which the low heat-generating temperature compensation device comprises a digital temperature comparison unit and a digital PID controller; and

FIG. 7 is a flow diagram of a process for applying a low heat-generating temperature compensation device of the present invention to a WDM Mux/DeMux type AWG device in order to stabilize the temperature characteristic of the AWG.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

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In the present invention, a low heat-generating temperature compensation device for temperature compensation of an optical communication device or the like is constructed in such a manner that an error value which is the difference between the current temperature and a reference temperature is subjected to digital processing in a temperature comparison unit. The digital processing calculates a digital error voltage value, and digital PID control is performed in substitution for analogue PID which requires electric components such as a power op-amp, a resistor (R), and a capacitor (C).

FIG. 4 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary low heat-generating temperature compensation device in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, in which the temperature comparison is subjected to digital signal processing.

As illustrated in FIG. 4, the low heat-generating temperature compensation device in accordance with the present invention comprises a temperature sensor 1, a temperature compensation module 2, and a temperature control unit 3, wherein the temperature compensation module 2 consists of a temperature comparison unit 100, a PID control unit 200, a high electric current drive unit 300, an A/D converter 110, and an D/A converter 120.

The temperature sensor 1 detects the current temperature of an optical communication device or the like; a voltage signal corresponding to the detected temperature is converted into a digital signal through the A/D converter 110. The temperature comparison unit 100 calculates a digital error voltage value V_{err} which is the difference between the voltage value V_{cur} , which corresponds to the current temperature and has been converted into a digital signal through the A/D converter, and a reference voltage value V_{ref} , which corresponds to a set temperature. A voltage divider circuit is the type generally used as a circuit for measuring the voltage value corresponding to the current temperature, in which case a closed loop consists of a reference voltage (3V), a resistor, a temperature sensor and a ground (GND), in this sequence.

Advantageously, through digital signal processing, digital V_{ref} and/or digital V_{cur} are manipulated to compensate for the type of temperature sensor employed. If, for example, a thermistor is used as the temperature sensor, the resistance value of the temperature sensor decreases with increase in temperature and thus the voltage value V_{cur}

of the current temperature also tends to decrease. Therefore, V_{cur} is increased to yield digital V_{cur} , or V_{ref} is decreased to yield digital V_{ref} , or both digital values are partially adjusted. If, on the other hand, an RTD is used as the temperature sensor, the resistance value of the temperature increases with an increase in temperature and thus the voltage value V_{cur} of the current temperature tends to increase; accordingly, V_{cur} is decreased to yield digital V_{cur} , or V_{ref} is increased to yield digital V_{ref} , or both digital values are partially adjusted. Since the temperature comparison unit 100 compares error voltage values in digital values, it is possible to implement the temperature comparison unit in a PCB to accommodate sensors regardless of their types.

The digital error voltage value is inputted into the PID control unit 200 after conversion into an analog voltage value V_{err} through the D/A converter 120. The PID control unit generates a temperature compensation signal V_{pid} by executing PID control function to regulate the error voltage value to zero. That is and as described in further detail below, through feedback the PID control function brings or “urges” the error voltage value to zero.

V_{pid} is amplified in the high electric current drive unit 300 and supplied to the temperature control unit 3, which controls the temperature of the optical communication device with the supplied electric current. In the embodiment shown, the high electric current drive unit 300 consists of a PWM driver 310 and a current rectifier circuit 320. The PWM driver 310 has a low output resistance and a high thermal efficiency and therefore does not require a separate heat sink. For this reason, it is used mainly for devices which generates low heat.

FIG. 5 diagrammatically illustrates an example of another preferred embodiment of the present invention, in which the low heat-generating temperature compensation comprises a digital PID controller.

As shown in FIG. 5, the low heat-generating temperature compensation device
5 comprises: a temperature sensor 1; a temperature compensation module 2 which consists of a temperature comparison unit 100, a digital PID control unit 220, a high electric current drive unit 300, an A/D converter 210, and a D/A converter 230; and a temperature control unit 3.

The construction of this embodiment is different from that shown in FIG. 1 in that
10 the former comprises the digital PID control unit 220 instead of the analog PID control unit 20. This embodiment further comprises the A/D converter 210 and the D/A converter 230 at the input and output terminals of the digital PID control unit 220, respectively, in order to perform PID control.

The temperature comparison unit 100 calculates an error voltage value which is the
15 difference between a voltage value corresponding to the current temperature and a voltage value corresponding to the reference temperature. The error voltage value is converted to a digital voltage value by the A/D converter 210 and inputted into the digital PID control unit 220.

The digital control unit 220 performs digital PID control in a way that urges the
20 error voltage value to zero. The PID control is executed through a universal microprocessor, in which the basic formula for PID control of digital PID sampling mode is as follows:

Control amount = $K_p \times \text{error (Proportion P)} +$
 $K_i \times \text{error accumulation (Integration I)} +$
 $K_d \times \text{difference from the last error (Derivation D)}$

This is expressed symbolically as follows:

$$5 \quad nV_{pid} = (n-1)V_{pid} + D_n V_{pid}$$

$$D_n V_{pid} = K_p \times (nV_{err} - (n-1)V_{err}) +$$

$$K_i \times nV_{err} +$$

$$K_d \times ((nV_{err} - (n-1)V_{err}) - ((n-1)V_{err} - (n-2)V_{err}))$$

In the above formula, nV_{pid} and $(n-1)V_{pid}$ indicate last control amount and current
 10 control amount, respectively, $D_n V_{pid}$ means derivation of current control amount, and nV_{err} ,
 $(n-1)V_{err}$ and $(n-2)V_{err}$ indicate current error, last error and error preceding the last,
 respectively. K_p , K_i and K_d mean proportion constant, integration constant and derivation
 constant, respectively.

The output value of the digital PID control unit 220 is converted into an analog
 15 value through the D/A converter 230. The analog value is supplied as high electric current
 to the temperature control device 3, which may be a heater or a TEC, through the high
 electric current drive unit 300, which consists of a PWM driver 310 and a current rectifier
 320. The temperature control unit 3 maintains the current temperature close to the
 reference temperature based on a signal from the high electric current drive 300. The
 20 digital PID control uses, as required, P control, PI control, PD control, PID control, etc.

FIG. 6 shows another exemplary and preferred embodiment of the present invention,
 in which the low heat-generating temperature compensation device comprises a digital

temperature comparison unit and a digital PID controller.

As shown in FIG. 6, the low heat-generating temperature compensation device according to this embodiment comprises a temperature sensor 1; a temperature compensation module 2 which consists of a temperature comparison unit 100, a digital PID control unit 220, a high electric current drive unit 300, an A/D converter 110, and a D/A converter 230; and a temperature control unit 3.

The construction of this embodiment is different from that shown in FIG. 1 in that the former comprises the digital PID control unit 220 instead of the analog PID control unit 20. This embodiment further comprises the D/A converter 230 at the output terminal of the digital PID control unit 220 in order to perform PID control.

The voltage value of current temperature, which is detected by the temperature sensor 1, is converted into a digital voltage value, digital V_{cur} , through the A/D converter 110. The temperature comparison unit 100 calculates an error voltage value V_{err} , which is the difference between the voltage of the reference temperature, digital V_{ref} , and the voltage of the current temperature, digital V_{cur} . The error voltage value V_{err} is inputted into the digital PID control unit 200, which performs PID control via a universal micro controller in a method as described above. The PID output value from the digital PID controller is converted into an analog value and then supplied as high electric current to the temperature control unit 3 through a PWM driver 310 and a current rectifier 320. As a result, a low heat-generating temperature compensation device is constructed which constantly maintains the reference temperature and the current temperature.

FIG. 7 shows, by way of example, a process for applying a low heat-generating

temperature compensation device of the present invention to an AWG device that is a WDM Mux/DeMux device in order to stabilize the temperature characteristic of the AWG.

A temperature sensor 1 detects the currently used temperature of the AWG device 4. If the detected temperature deviates from a reference temperature, a temperature compensation module 2 supplies a control signal to a temperature control unit to compensate for the deviation in operating a temperature controlled device such as a heater or a TEC. The AWG device 4 therefore maintains a constant temperature (reference temperature) characteristic regardless of the environmental temperature. A heat spreader 5 evenly transfers the heat to the AWG device 4 without bias.

10 As described above, the low heat-generating temperature compensation device comprises a temperature comparison unit and an analog PID control unit that are constructed to perform digital signal processing. As a result, the present invention can reduce the number of electric parts and concomitant material costs and miniaturize the modular size of the temperature compensation device.

15 Furthermore, due to the digital signal processing of the temperature comparison, it is possible to construct an universal low heat-generating temperature compensation device that can accept various types of temperature sensors while using only one PCB.

While the invention has been shown and described with reference to certain preferred embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

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